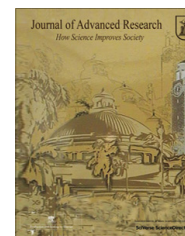




Cairo University  
Journal of Advanced Research



## OBITUARY

# Chemistry Pioneer Ahmed Sami Shawali (1936–2016)



Deputy Editor, Journal of Advanced Research

The Egyptian chemist Ahmed Sami Shawali, a pioneer of Organic Chemistry at Cairo University (Faculty of Science) and a recipient of the Basic Science Nile Prize (2014) for his work on the synthesis of organic reactions, has died at the age of 80.

Quietly Left Our World – A pioneering scientist and role model, Dr. Shawali was a Professor at the Faculty of Science, Cairo University. He was a prominent genius of chemistry that was known to Western and Eastern scientists alike. He supervised 70 masters and PhD students, published over 300 papers in physical, spectral organic chemistry, authored 8 books in the

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fields of basic organic chemistry and organic spectra and the essentials of organic and physical chemistry, and authored numerous review articles within international periodicals. He left behind a legacy of teachers who are deployed in the Egyptian universities, as well as a number of Arab states, all of whom were energized by his knowledge after he returned from the United States in the 1960's.

Prof. Shawali was born in Kafr El Sheikh, Egypt, in 1936, received his bachelor's degree in 1958 at the Faculty of Science, Cairo University, before moving to the US, where he received a M.Sc. and PhD at the University of Lowell, MA, USA. In 1966, he returned to Egypt and was appointed as a lecturer of Organic Chemistry in the Chemistry Department, where he taught Organic Spectroscopy and Physical Organic chemistry. He began his research in the field of organic synthesis of hydrazonyl halides, where he developed techniques for rearranging atoms and bonds within reacting molecules. In the years since, Professor Shawali's work attracted many students, leading to the establishment of one of the largest schools in the Department of Chemistry, in Organic Synthesis and Organic Spectroscopy. Shawali is also known for his contribution to science policy, particularly from 2009 onward, when he served as a Dean of the Faculty of Science. He was awarded the State Award, received the Cairo University Award of excellence, and in 2014, he was the sole recipient of the prestigious Nile Prize in Science. He was an amazing scientist known locally and internationally, and generations of scientists appreciated him because he was for us not only our teacher, but also our brother and father-figure. All those who knew him, and especially his students, will dearly miss his professionalism and kindness.

Beside science and work, he enjoyed his personal life to the fullest with his wife, two sons, and a daughter.

May Allah SWT forgive him and make us spread his loving spirit and tenderness.

Hamed A. Ead, PhD

*On behalf of Chemistry Department,  
Faculty of Science, Cairo University*

Hussein M. Khaled, EIC

*On behalf of the Editorial Board,  
Journal of Advanced Research*